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Veterans to Receive Honorary High School Diplomas

“Operation Recognition” seeks to honor WWI, WWII, Korean and Vietnam vets

DES MOINES – Veterans who served the United States but were interrupted from completing their high school degree should apply for a special honorary diploma through the “Operation Recognition” program administered by the Department of Education and the Iowa Commission of Veterans Affairs.

More than 800 World War II veterans already have received one of the honorary diplomas, which were authorized two years ago by the Iowa Legislature. This year, the Legislature expanded eligibility to veterans of World War I, the Korean Conflict and Vietnam Conflict who were honorably discharged. Specific eligibility guidelines are determined by Veterans Affairs.

“Veterans made many sacrifices to serve their country – and one of those sacrifices was a high school diploma, which carries strong meaning in Iowa where education has such a strong tradition,” said Governor Tom Vilsack. “It is an important step for us to confer to them this honor they have earned with distinction.”

Many local school districts have presented the honorary degrees to their area veterans during special Veterans Day ceremonies.

Veterans can find applications or more information at their local Veterans offices, local school district offices, the Iowa Department of Education or the Iowa Department of Education Web site: www.state.ia.us/educate; or phone 515/281-3317.

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